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WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT



OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the Year ending 31st December, 1957

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WALTON-LE DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1957

Chairman of Public Health Committee

Councillor W. Morgan

Vice-Chairman of Public Health Committee

Councillor F. A. Cooper

Members of the Council

Councillor J. C. Airey (retired May)

Councillor Miss A. Birkenhead (from May)

*Councillor Mrs. J. Eccles

Councillor J. Gardner (from May)

Councillor T. Hewlett

Councillor Mrs. E. E. Hewlett

Councillor Averell Kidd (retired May)

*Councillor Mrs. E. Martin

*Councillor W. McLaughlin

Councillor J. Miller

Councillor Mrs. M. P. M. Parker, J.P.

*Councillor A. Sharples

Councillor J. Spencer

Councillor R. Wignall

*Councillor Rev. A. Williams

*Members of Public Health Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. J. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.D.S., D.P.D.

Other Appointments: Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Lancs. C.C. No. 4 Division;
and Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Chorley, the Urban Districts
of Adlington, Longridge, Withnell, Fulwood and Leyland and the Rural Districts
of Preston and Chorley.

Chief Public Health Inspector

and Cleansing Superintendent: G. N. Corbishley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors: J. R. Williams, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
F. Burgin, Cs. R.S.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
BAMBER BRIDGE

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council of the Urban District of Walton-le-Dale

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Walton-le-Dale, for the year ended 31st December, 1957

The number of live births registered in, and belonging to, the District during the year 1957 was 283 or 42 more than in the previous year. This figure gives a birth-rate of 17.5 per 1,000 estimated population. This is the highest rate recorded for the District since 1947. The birth-rate for England and Wales for the year 1957 was 16.1.

The number of deaths was 4 fewer than in the previous year, giving a death-rate of 11.4 per 1,000 estimated population. The rate for the year 1956 was 11.9. The death-rate for England and Wales for the year 1957 was 11.5. The number of deaths from malignant disease was 7 fewer than in the previous year. Influenza is recorded as the cause of 6 deaths. There were no deaths from this cause in 1956. Many in the District were affected by the epidemic of Asian Influenza during the period September-October, 1957.

The number of infants who died before reaching one year of age was 5, as compared with 6 in the year 1956. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 18 per 1,000 live births, as against a national figure of 23.

It is pleasing to report that, during the year, there were no deaths attributable to child-birth. There was one such death in the previous year.

The estimated population of the Urban District continues to rise, the figure of 16,130 (mid-1957) is an increase of 350 over 1956.

The number of notifications of infectious diseases was 209 in the year 1957, as against 503 in 1956. The reduction is mainly due to the decreased incidence of measles. Three cases of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred during the year, but fortunately, none of them proved fatal.

Matters relating to the Sanitary circumstances of the District are dealt with in the Report. The proposals for the housing of the aged, gives cause for much satisfaction. Much attention has continued to be devoted to Food Hygiene. Increased attention has been given to the problem of atmosphere pollution. The Council should, in my opinion, give favourable consideration to the establishment of smoke control areas.

I am very grateful to the officials who, as in past years, have appended their reports. I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued support and encouragement. My thanks are also given to the Officers of the Council for their ready co-operation on all occasions.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant.

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Physical Characteristics of the Area

The shape of the district is roughly that of a quadrangle with the longer sides from East to West of $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles and the shorter North to South of 3 miles. There is a pronounced slope in the area from South East to North West, falling from 300 feet above sea level to 20 feet above mean sea level.

Part of the northern boundary of the district is formed by the River Ribble for a distance of some two miles, and it is tidal in almost all that stretch. The River Darwen flows through a valley in the northern part of the area and joins the Ribble towards the north western boundary of the district.

Each of these rivers has given rise to extensive flooding in the lower lying parts of the district in times of heavy rains. The risk of flooding is accentuated by a West wind with a high tide level.

Geologically the area is based on Triassic Sandstone upon which are placed a layer of lower boulder clay, a layer of drift sand and finally a layer of upper boulder clay. The rock base forms an inclined plane which dips downwards from the East towards the sea. Outcrops of this rock are found in the beds of the rivers Ribble and Darwen. In the boulder clay layers stones of varying sizes are found. Most of these are of Lakeland origin brought down by the movement of ice or by its melting. In the Drift Sand layer there are deposits of gravel. Usually the layers of Glacial Drift fill the valleys, the hill tops being free of drift.

The thickness of the layers varies considerably in different parts of the district, and the three layers may reach 100 feet, but in most parts of the district the Upper Boulder layer approximates 10 feet, the Drift Sand 9 feet and the Lower Boulder layer from 2 feet upwards.

The two rivers form a flat tongue of land near their junction and the alluvial deposits provide a rich soil which is utilised for market gardening. This land has, unfortunately, been flooded on many occasions to the great detriment of the stock in the gardens.

Meteorological Conditions in 1957

The information contained in this section of my report has been provided, as in previous years, by Dr. V. Barocas of the Jeremiah Horrocks Observatory by permission of Mr. W. R. Tuson, Chief Education Officer, Preston, and the table of Sunshine hours by the Meteorological Station at Esprick.

Weather Summary

Month	Rainfall Inches	No. of Rain Days	Sunshine Hours	Prevailing Wind Days
January	2.99	21	50.1	S. 9, S.W. 5.
February	2.58	20	85.9	S. 8, S.E. 7.
March	2.99	18	95.8	S.E. 8, W. 7.
April	0.42	7	177.8	N.E. 6.
May	2.21	12	224.1	E. 9, S. 6.
June	1.48	10	309.4	E. 7, N.W. 6.
July	5.07	20	135.4	N.W. 10, W. 7.
August	5.18	19	134.5	N.W. 10, W. 7.
September	6.59	22	118.2	W. 8, N.W. 6.
October	6.15	20	81.8	S. 8.
November	1.27	9	62.3	Calm 9
December	4.54	17	48.7	Calm 9, S. 5.

A short summary of the weather of each month follows.

JANUARY was unusually warm. There was very little snow, most of it fell in short-lived showers. The total rainfall was a little lower than average. Throughout the month the barometer was high, reaching a very high value on January 16th. No gales were recorded and the Moor Park pond was not frozen. Visibility on the whole was good.

FEBRUARY also was a little warmer than average and considerably warmer than February, 1956, the average temperature being 8.3°F. higher. During this month, too, we had little snow. It fell mostly as light showers of snow and sleet on 4 days. The Moor Park pond was frozen only on 4 days. There was a cold week from February 15th to February 23rd. The total rainfall for the month was average, and a rain spell which had started on January 20th ended on February 16th. The ground was flooded on 13 days. The barometer throughout the month was generally low. Winds were light and southerly.

MARCH was an unusually warm and pleasant month. The average temperature was 7.2°F. higher than the average for this month. The highest maximum recorded was 67.0° on March 12th, a high maximum for the time of the year in Preston. We had only 6 nights of ground frost and no air frost was recorded, which was unusual for the time of the year. Winds were south easterly and light generally. Very little fog was present. Generally the month of March is a fairly dry one in Preston, but this year was a little wetter than February. No snow fell, and the Moor Park pond was not frozen at all.

APRIL, usually a dry month, was very dry this year. With a total rainfall of 0.42 inch it was the driest April of the century. In spite of this, however, we had no droughts, only a dry spell which started on March 30th and ended on April 15th.

The temperature for the month was a little above the average. Winds were light and north easterly. Air frost was recorded on 2 days, while ground frost occurred on 12 nights.

MAY followed the usual pattern for this month. The rainfall was a little less than what we expect in May, but most of the rain fell in the 12 days from May 8th to May 20th. The month started with a dry spell which developed into an absolute drought on May 8th. From that day on, however, it rained and we had some rather heavy thunderstorms. The weather was on the whole mixed, with rain, sleet, thunder, ground frost on 4 nights, air frost on 1 day.

One of the most unusual features was, perhaps, the rather low humidity and there was excellent visibility on 3 days. Winds were mainly light and easterly, and the ground was very dry. During the month we had a considerable number of optical phenomena; 11 solar halos and 3 solar coronae were observed. Abnormal visibility was recorded on 6 days.

JUNE was sunny and warm, with clear sky. During this month the highest maximum for the year, 81.3°F. , was recorded on June 16th. The days were warm but the nights were cool, and ground frost was recorded on the night of June 23rd.

The total rainfall was 1.18 inch less than average, and the ground was mainly dry. June, too, had a period of very low relative humidity. On 9 days the relative humidity was less than 60% and on two occasions it was as low as 35% and 38%.

JULY was a wet and cool month. The temperature for the month was 0.5°F. lower than average and the total rainfall 1.64 inch higher than average. There were heavy showers and thunderstorms and the relative humidity was higher than usual for this month. Winds were north westerly and mainly light.

AUGUST, too, was a cool and wet month. Rainfall, relative humidity and cloud amount were all higher than average. The highest maximum was 76.0°F. and the lowest minimum was 41.0°F. reached at the end of the month. Thunderstorms were frequent and we had 2 gales, the one of August 24th causing structural damage in the town and uprooting trees in Moor Park. The first week of the month was rather warm and sunny, but the month ended with thunderstorms, gales and overcast sky.

SEPTEMBER followed in a similar manner. It was a cold, stormy, and wet month. With 6.59 inches of rain it was the wettest month of the year. On September 16th-17th it rained for $39\frac{1}{4}$ hours and of these, 25 hours were of continuous rain. The total rainfall for these two days was 1.91 inches. The temperature of the month was also low, 2.1°F. lower than average. Ground frost was recorded on two nights. Gales and thunderstorms occurred, and the winds were moderate and westerly. There was an improvement in the weather towards the end of the month.

OCTOBER was a warm and wet month. The first 14 days of the month were dry, while the 17 days of the second half were very wet. The total rainfall was well above average. A rain spell which started on October 15th ended on November 5th.

The temperature for the month was, however, 2.0°F. above average. No air frost was recorded but ground frost occurred on 5 nights. Winds were southerly and light. Visibility was good with little fog. The month ended with overcast sky, flooded ground and stormy weather.

NOVEMBER was another unusual month, with high barometric pressure, very little rain, a temperature above normal, and sunny days. The rain spell which started in the previous month ended on November 5th and was followed from November 6th to November 20th by a dry spell which later developed into a partial drought.

Visibility was good, very little fog was experienced, and the ground was fairly dry.

During November we had 9 nights of ground frost, 5 days of air frost, showers of hail, light southerly winds and a number of calm days.

DECEMBER was another month with temperature a little higher than average, although in 1957 it was the coldest month of the year. The month was dry at first and the partial drought which had started on November 6th ended on December 5th. The rainfall was well below average throughout the month until the very last day of the year. December 31st, with 1.99 inch of rain, made the total rainfall of the month 0.89 inch above average. It was the wettest day of the year and the rain which started at 05.00 G.M.T. did not stop until 13.00 G.M.T. on January 1st.

Very little snow fell during the month, and only as light showers of short duration. Ground frost was recorded on 15 nights and air frost on 9 days. The lowest temperature of the year was reached on December 15th when the minimum temperature was 20.9°F.

The month had a fairly clear sky and sunshine. Visibility was good. Winds were again southerly and light. Two gales were recorded, but neither caused structural damage. The Moor Park pond was frozen on 5 days.

The year ended with a very wet day but with the temperature in the forties.

Social Conditions and Amenities of the Area

The main portions of the district are closely associated with industry, but part is entirely residential. The chief industries are cotton manufacture, especially weaving, engineering, corn milling, market gardening and dairy farming.

There are thirteen churches in the area, a number have attached Sunday Schools covering the various aspects of religion. Many church halls are associated with these churches where in the winter months, social functions are held.

The clubs in the district are political, religious and non-sectarian; some are connected with sport. Games such as billiards, snooker, darts, dominoes, etc., are played in the clubs. Additionally, a tennis club, a table tennis club, and a cricket club are sited in the district.

The district is fortunate in having a number of playing fields, some of which are owned and controlled by the Local Authority and others by the sports organisations from churches and clubs. Good use is made of these for the usual seasonal sports. Some of the playing fields are now equipped with a children's play section.

The local Archeological Society has made excavations, particularly in the area close to the junction of the Rivers Darwen and Ribble, where it is considered that there was, in the period of Roman occupation, a landing place for Roman shipping. The existence of a fort is suspected, its boundaries have not been fully traced. Many interesting relics, pottery, metals, portions of urns, etc., have been found there and are now displayed in the Council Offices and also in the Library in Station Road.

A report on the first 10 years "dig" is about to be published.

Vital Statistics

<i>Births</i>					Male	Female	Total
Live Births—Legitimate ...					145	132	277
Illegitimate ...					3	3	6
					148	135	283
Still Births— Legitimate ...					5	1	6
Illegitimate ...					—	—	—
					5	1	6

Birth Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population (mid-1957) crude	...	...	17.5
Birth Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population (mid-1957) adjusted	...	...	17.5
Registrar General's comparability factor for births	...	...	1.0

					Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from all causes ...					99	85	184
Infantile Mortality (Infants under 1 year of age)							
Legitimate ...					3	2	5
Illegitimate ...					—	—	—
Neo-natal Mortality (Infants under 4 weeks of age)							
Legitimate ...					3	2	5
Illegitimate ...					—	—	—

Mortality Rates

Per 1,000 estimated population (mid-1957) crude	...	...	11.4
Per 1,000 estimated population (mid-1957) adjusted	...	...	13.9
Registrar General's comparability factor for Deaths	...	...	1.22
Neo-natal per 1,000 live births	...	...	18
Infantile per 1,000 live births	...	...	18
Maternal per 1,000 total births	...	...	nil
Cancer per 1,000 population	...	...	1.8
Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	...	...	0.06

Comparative Table

	Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Per 1,000 of Population Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate from Cancer	Maternal Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Live and Still Births	Infantile Mortality Rate
<i>Walton-le-Dale</i>						
Mean of 5 years 1950-54	15.18	11.99	0.16	1.88	Nil	22.8
Year 1955	14.4	11.2	0.06	1.63	Nil	23
Year 1956	15.3	11.9	Nil	2.09	4.02	25
Year 1957	17.5	11.4	0.06	1.8	Nil	18
Increase or decrease in 1957 compared to:—						
A. 5 year average	+ 2.32	— .59	— .10	— .08	Nil	— 4.8
B. Previous Year	+ 2.2	— .5	+ .06	— .29	— 4.02	— 7
County of Lancs. for 1957	16.00	12.85	0.10	2.13	0.58	25
England & Wales for 1957	16.1	11.5	.09	2.09	.39	23.0

Table of Six Decades

Period	Per 1,000 Population		Phthisis Death Rate	Enteric Fever		Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever		Deaths from Diarrhoea	Infantile Mortality Rate	
	Birth Rate	Death Rate		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths			
Ten Years												
1891-1900	...	30.8	18.9	1.25	133	27	46	16	211	15	122	188
1901-1910	...	26.3	14.7	0.95	116	21	98	15	291	16	58	128
1911-1920	...	18.7	13.7	0.91	54	5	166	16	565	11	46	107
1921-1930	...	16.0	12.0	0.72	7	0	66	5	310	0	11	64
1931-1940	...	14.0	12.7	0.44	5	2	47	3	414	0	5	56
1941-1950	...	16.5	12.28	0.33	0	0	27	1	280	0	6	42

Births

The statistics in regard to both births and deaths, have again been supplied by the Registrar General, through the County Health Department. The number of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfer.

According to the Registrar General, the total live births registered in, or belonging to the District, during the year 1957 number 283 (males 148—females 135) 42 more than in the year 1956.

The live birth rates for the District, calculated on the estimated home population, corresponds to 17.5 per 1,000. The previous year the rate was 15.3. The comparability factor for births supplied by the Registrar General is 1.0 leaving the adjusted birth rate the same as the crude—i.e., 17.5. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year 1957 was 16.1.

The number of illegitimate live births belonging to the District and registered during 1957 numbered 6—the same number as in the previous year.

The number of registered still-births assigned to the District during 1957 was 6, or 2 fewer than in the previous year. The resultant rate for the District was 21 per 1,000 total births, as compared with 22.4 for England and Wales.

Deaths

The number of deaths actually belonging to Walton-le-Dale Urban District for the year 1957, numbered 184 (males 99, females 85)—4 fewer than in the year 1956.

The death-rate for the Urban District, calculated on a home population of 16,130, is 11.4 per 1,000. The death-rate for the previous year was 11.9.

Once again the Registrar General has supplied a comparability factor for adjusting local death rates. This factor takes into account the varying population constitution, including sex and age distribution to make every district comparable from the mortality point of view, with the crude death-rate of the country as a whole, or with similarly adjusted death-rates for other areas. The adjusted death-rate, using the comparability factor is 13.9, as against last year's adjusted rate of 13.6.

The death rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1957 was 11.5 per 1,000 home population.

Analysis of Causes of Death, 1957

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	—	1	1
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasms—Stomach	3	—	3
Lungs and Bronchus	3	—	3
Breast	—	5	5
Uterus	—	1	1
Other	8	7	15
Leukaemia	—	2	2
Diabetes	2	—	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	13	18	31
Angina, Coronary disease	22	7	29
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	11	17	28
Other circulatory disease	8	3	11
Influenza	3	3	6
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	8	5	13
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Congenital Malformations	2	—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	6	14
All other accidents	2	1	3
Suicide	1	—	1

Causes of Death

Diseases of the heart were again the dominant cause of death in both males and females. The total number of deaths from the cause was 59—7 fewer than in the previous year. The number of deaths attributed to Angina Coronary Disease was 6 fewer than in 1956.

Deaths from vascular lesions of the nervous system increased from 27 to 31.

The number of deaths from cancer were 7 fewer than in 1956, the figures being 27 and 34 respectively. Deaths from cancer of the lungs and bronchitis were 3 and 7 in the respective years.

Deaths from pneumonia and bronchitis were 5 fewer than in the previous year.

Influenza is recorded as the cause of 6 deaths in 1957. There were no such deaths in the previous year. It will be recalled that in September-October, 1957, the District was quite severely affected by the prevalent epidemic of Asian Influenza.

Infantile Mortality

The deaths of infants under one year numbered 5 as compared with 6 in the previous year. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 18 per 1,000 live births, as compared with a rate of 25 in 1956. The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales in 1957 was 23. All the deaths occurred in infants in the first 4 weeks of life.

The causes of death of the 5 infants are given below: —

Age							Cause of deaths
7 hours	...	...	...	...	...	...	Atelactasis
1 day	...	...	...	...	...	...	Peritonitis
3 days	...	...	...	...	...	...	Prematurity
1 day	...	...	...	...	...	...	Atelactasis
1 week	...	...	...	...	...	...	Pneumonia

Maternal Mortality

It is pleasing to report that in the year 1957 there were no deaths recorded as due to disease or accident of child-birth. There was one such death in the previous year.

Still Births

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births for England and Wales is 22.4 and for Walton-le-Dale 21.

The Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The hospital to which patients were admitted was:—

Deepdale Infectious Diseases Hospital, Preston.

The table below gives details of notifications for the year under review.

Notifiable Diseases

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	25 years and over	65 years age and over	un-known	Total dths
Scarlet Fever	38	—	1	3	1	5	22	5	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	21	1	—	3	2	4	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis													
Paralytic	3	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	134	3	15	17	25	23	50	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

	Total	0 yrs.	5 yrs.	15 yrs.	45 yrs.
Acute Pneumonia	9	1	2	2	4
Erysipelas	1	—	—	1	—
Tuberculosis (resp.)	1	—	—	1	—

The total of 209 notifications in the year 1957, compared with 503 in 1956.

Notifications of Scarlet Fever were one more than in the previous year. The number of notifications of Whooping Cough were 40 fewer.

There were 3 notifications of acute poliomyelitis—all paralytic. Fortunately, none of these cases proved fatal. None of the cases had received poliomyelitis vaccine.

The epidemic of measles which began towards the end of 1956 continued into the early months of 1957.

Only one new case of respiratory tuberculosis was notified in 1957 as against 6 in 1956.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Certifying Factory Surgeon ... Dr. P. McK. Logan, Leven House, Bamber Bridge.

County Council Services in the Area

One midwife was employed wholtime in the district.

Mrs. Dobbie, Chorley Road, Bamber Bridge. Telephone: 85280.

Ambulance Service

The ambulance service covering the area of the Urban District is now radio-controlled from the Ambulance Headquarters at Broughton, where requests for ambulance transport are directed. There is one ambulance based at the Ambulance Station in the Council Yard which works on a day-time basis only. At other times the needs of the area are covered by ambulances stationed in adjacent areas.

Domiciliary Nursing Service

Three nurses were employed in this district in 1957. They carried out the important duties of nursing in the homes of the patients.

Ante-Natal Clinic

Meetings were held fortnightly at the School Clinic, Brindle Road. A specialist (Mr. Robson) from Preston Royal Infirmary attended at each meeting in addition to the County Health Visitors and local Midwives.

Routine inspections and examinations were made and patients were advised or given minor treatment where necessary. Any further treatment necessitated transference to Preston Royal Infirmary or Sharoe Green Maternity Hospital. The majority of the babies were born in hospital.

Post natally, mothers also attended for advice or treatment.

Dental Treatment was given by the School Dentist.

Child Welfare Centres

There are three in the district, one at the School Clinic, Brindle Road, one at the Methodist Sunday School at Lostock Hall, and one at Gregson Lane. The Brindle Road Child Welfare Centre met weekly on Thursday afternoons, the Lostock Hall Child Welfare Centre fortnightly on Monday afternoons, and the Gregson Lane Child Welfare Centre the first and third Monday in the month, during the afternoon.

Home Help Service

Home Helps are employed in Walton-le-Dale and district, and help a variety of cases including confinements, sickness, old age and infirmity, and Tuberculosis cases. Night helps are also employed where needed.

School Medical Service

Medical and hygiene inspections are carried out at the School Clinic, Brindle Road, Bamber Bridge. Clinic sessions are held for a variety of treatments including minor ailments, dental care and ophthalmic conditions. The County Council make special provisions for residential schooling for various categories of handicapped children such as the blind, partially sighted, deaf and dumb, epileptics, delicate and backward.

Convalescent Care

In suitable cases arrangements are made for the admission of patients to convalescent homes.

Welfare Service

Residential homes are provided to accommodate elderly and infirm persons who have no longer anyone to adequately care for them. Handicapped persons are also assisted.

Hospitals

The hospitals administered by the Preston and District Hospitals Management Committee were available for patients from this district. They were:—

- (1) Preston Royal Infirmary.
- (2) Sharoe Green Hospital.
- (3) Chorley and District Hospital.
- (4) Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley.

There were annexes, belonging to this group of hospitals for Continuation, Convalescent, or Specialised treatment. One of these—Lostock Hall Convalescent Home—is situated in this district.

All the hospitals were extensively used, for out-patient as well as in-patient treatment, by persons from this area, though the extent of this use was not known, as figures of attendances or lists of diseases were not available nor supplied by the hospitals. It would, therefore, be impossible to give even an appropriate estimate of the amount of illness or disability for which these hospitals cater.

Sufferers from Malignant Diseases received specialised treatment at the special unit at Preston Royal Infirmary staffed by personnel from the Christie Hospital, Manchester. Radium X-ray, Isotope and operative treatment were available.

Venereal Diseases were treated at a specialised clinic at Preston Royal Infirmary.

Immunisations and Vaccination

Immunised against Diphtheria only		Immunised against Diphtheria & Whooping Cough		Immunised against Diphtheria/Whooping Cough & Tetanus combined		Immunised against Whoping Cough only				
Total under 5 years	Total aged 5-14 years	Total under 5 years	Total aged 5-14 years	Total under 5 years	Total aged 5-14 years	Total under 5 years	Total aged 5-14 years			
11	17	...	18	—	...	151	2	...	—	—

Vaccination

Primary Vaccinations performed					Re-vaccinations	
Age in years						
Under 1	1—	5—	15—	Total	Total	
120	9	8	21	158	13	

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Number of children receiving complete vaccination at ages:—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
—	8	46	62	40	57	68	85	75	53	—	494

Mass Radiography

This is the first occasion in which figures for mass radiography have been given in my Annual Report, but I am sure the Council will be most interested in a report submitted to me on a survey carried out in Lostock Hall by the No. 1 Mass Radiography Unit of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board. In 1956 four industrial premises were visited in the Lostock Hall area, some 715 people were X-rayed of which 313 were males and 402 females.

The following figures are an extract from the report:—

Report on Survey held in Lostock Hall, 1-5-1956 to 3-5-1956

									Males	Females	Total
Number Examined									313	402	715
<i>Abnormalities Discovered:—</i>											
Healed Tuberculosis				...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Cardio-vascular lesion acquired				...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Pulmonary Fibrosis				...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Tuberculosis but failed to attend Chest Clinic				...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Failed to attend Unit for large film				...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2

I understand that Bamber Bridge and District will be visited by this Unit in 1959, and I hope it will be possible to give a further report after this survey.

Tuberculosis

The County Council supply the dispensaries and the Health Visitor Staff, whilst the Regional Hospital Board supply the Medical staff. The Dispensary for this area was at Walton's Parade, Preston.

Inspections, examinations, X-ray, light treatment, and general medical treatment were given at this dispensary.

On the register at the end of the year were 52 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 25 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, compared with 56 and 32 respectively in 1956.

Notified during the year were 4 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (one already living in the district, 2 transfers into the district, and one restored to the register.)

Milk and Milk Production

The Group Pathologist, Preston Royal Infirmary (Dr. A. A. Miller) examined all the milk samples submitted. Out of 70 samples of raw milk submitted 19 were unsatisfactory for keeping quality, and 1 was contaminated with B. Coli. In addition, 2 samples contained tubercle bacilli, these were obtained at the Milk Marketing Board premises from milk churns being brought into the District. Notifications were sent to the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the milk was produced and to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry, the milk was pasteurised. 28 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for examination, all were satisfactory.

Milk in Schools Scheme

All the schools in the area received supplies of milk on each day the schools were open. All the milk supplied was heat treated. Samples of the milk submitted to test proved to be free from Tubercle Bacilli.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938

All samples of raw milk submitted to the Group Pathologist, Preston Royal Infirmary, were examined for B. Tuberculosis. Of the 70 samples submitted all were negative, with the exception of 2, these were from farms outside the district who deliver to the Milk Marketing Board.

It was necessary to notify the Medical Officer of Health from whose district the samples came and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, in order that the affected animals could be dealt with under the above Order. In both cases the animals were sent for slaughter and further tests revealed the milk to be negative.

Ice Cream

The number of producer retailers in the district has been reduced to two following discontinuation of Ice Cream production at premises in Hoghton Lane.

The majority of Ice Cream and Ice Lollies are brought in from outside the district in pre-packed wrappings and are sold direct to the public without handling.

Of the six samples taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination all were found to be satisfactory.

Food & Drugs Act 1938-55

The County Council is the Food and Drug authority in this area. Samples were taken by the County Sampling Officer Mr. A. Kewley, assisted by Mr. Williams.

The County Medical Officer of Health has supplied the following figures:—

A total of 102 samples was obtained, consisting of 66 samples of milk and 36 others comprising:		3 Bismuth tablets
3 Pork sausage		3 Tincture of Iodine
2 White pepper		2 Margarine
1 Cooking fat		3 Coffee
1 Boric acid powder		3 Sweets
2 Mineral water		2 Ice-cream
1 Rum and butter toffee		1 Milk loaf
2 Bacon		1 Canned fruit
2 Bread		3 Olive oil
		1 Buffered aspirin

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following:—

<i>Type</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Milk	Fat 2.9%, deficient 3.3% fat. Slightly low in solids-not-fat.	Vendor notified
Pork sausage	Contained only 57% meat. Contained 150 p.p.m. sulphite preservative without declaration.	Vendor interviewed and further sample obtained
Mineral water	Contained 90 p.p.m. sulphite preservative expressed as sulphur dioxide. Limit for sulphite preservative in sweetened mineral waters is 70 p.p.m.	Vendor notified
Rum and Butter toffee	One ingredient declared as "preserved table butter" whereas constituents of this ingredient should have been declared. Total butter fat only 5%, so that butter should be included in the list of ingredients after all other main ingredients.	Packers communicated with

Food Hygiene

In order to obtain some uniformity in the administration of the Food Hygiene Regulations throughout the nine county districts for which I am responsible, it was arranged that a number of meetings be held of the Public Health Inspectors from the Local Authorities concerned to discuss this uniformity of action. The meetings were held early in the year in the Council Offices at Bamber Bridge, and much progress was made after prolonged discussion.

Housing and Housing Conditions

During the year, 218 dwellings have been built, 46 by the Local Authority and 172 by private builders.

The Local Authority do not propose to continue house construction when the current schemes have been completed.

Housing is dealt with in greater detail in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,017
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	1,508
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
(a) Number found during year	0
(b) Total Number (or estimated number) existing at end of year	19
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit	156

2.	Houses Demolished :—	Houses Demolished	Displaced during Year Persons	Families
In Clearance Areas—(Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):				
(1)	Houses unfit for human habitation	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2)	Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3)	Houses on land acquired under Section 27 , Housing Act, 1936	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not in Clearance Areas:				
(4)	As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	5	2	1
3.	Unfit Houses Closed :—	Number		
(1)	Under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, and Sections 10(1) and 11(2), Local Govt. (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953	4	7	2
(2)	Under Sections 3(1) and 3(2), Housing Act, 1949	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3)	Parts of buildings closed under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were remedied :—	By By Local Owner Authority		
(1)	After informal action by local authority	122		
(2)	After formal notice under—			
(a)	Public Health Acts	1		Nil
(b)	Housing Act, 1936	Nil		Nil
(3)	Under Section 5, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	Nil		
5.	Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) :—Position at end of year :			
(1)	Retained for temporary accommodation—			
(a)	Under Section 2	Nil		Nil
(b)	Under Section 3	Nil		Nil
(c)	Under Section 4	Nil		Nil
(2)	Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 6.	Nil		Nil
6.	Purchase of Houses by Agreement :—			
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year ...		Nil		Nil
7.	Housing Act, 1948—Improvement grants, etc: —			
Action during year:				

	Private bodies or individuals		Local Authority	
	Number of schemes	Number of dwelling- houses or other build- ings affected	Number of schemes	Number of dwelling- houses or other build- ings affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	19	19		
(b) Approved by local authority	18	18		
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil	2	2
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil	1	1
(e) Work completed	6	6	2	5
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above.				
(g) Any other action taken under the Act (give brief particulars)				None

Housing of the Aged

The care of the ageing population in the district is receiving considerable interest, not only amongst the public, but amongst the members of the Council. It is pleasing to note that they are fully alive to the necessity of caring for these people and in particular the housing of them. The County Council, being mindful of their duties and responsibility in this matter, have been urging Local Authorities to build small community centres which include a number of bungalows or flats together with a communal room and laundry in which these people would be looked after by a full time warden under the control of the Local Authority.

It is pleasing to report that before the end of the year plans for 16 bungalows on the Withy Trees Estate had been given formal approval.

Schools

Members will recall the much discussed problem of the Schools in the district and the subsequent report to the Divisional Education Officer regarding the condition of the sanitary accommodation etc.

I am hoping that it will be possible to give a fuller report, maybe next year, in order that Members can compare with the 1956 report what progress has been made. Whilst I am not in a position to give any detailed information of the improvements carried out, I understand that some improvements have been made at some of the Schools.

Atmospheric Pollution

The Clean Air Act, 1956, gives Local Authorities the means of dealing with the menace of air pollution.

A smoke-laden atmosphere is bound to have an adverse effect on health. The fight for clean air is a worthwhile fight, and must surely be won. In other words, the Clean Air Act must be vigorously implemented, including the establishment of Smoke Control Areas.

Further particulars of this important subject will be found in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Water Supply

Due to the unsatisfactory bacteriological reports in 1955 of the Council's water from the Thirlmere supply, I advised the Council to consider the installation of chlorination equipment at their intake. This is being proceeded with and although I understand has not been completed during the current year it should be in operation during 1958. The purity of the water since that time has been consistently good, but chlorination will ensure an effective safeguard should there be any future doubt of the bulk supply.

Factories

Details of inspections at the Factories in the district will be given in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

I have not had the opportunity of visiting any premises during the year, but will be making such inspections when the opportunity is available.

New Legislation

Factories & Shops, Thermal Insulation (Industrial Buildings) Act, 1957.

Housing Act, 1957.

Landlord & Tenant, Rent Act, 1957.

Local Government, Public Health Officers' (Deputies) Act, 1957.

Reports Appended

1. Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.
2. Report of the Engineer and Surveyor
3. Report on Water Supply.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR for the Year 1957

To the Chairman and Members of the Walton-le-Dale Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I submit to you the following report for the year 1957.

As in former years, it will follow a similar pattern but it is difficult in a report of this nature to present a picture of the work of a department, for much of its most useful work cannot be reduced to figures.

The variety of work which affects the environment of the district is very wide, and embraces important matters such as Food Hygiene, Meat Inspection, Schools, Factories, and the Control of Infectious Disease. These, but to mention a few, all come within the orbit of a Public Health Inspector's work.

It has been a year of progress in many spheres. The Housing Programme compiled in 1955 to deal with 81 unfit houses in the district is nearing completion. Some 60 houses have been dealt with either by closure, demolition or reconditioning. Only 4 dwellinghouses now remain on private water supply, and although the source and quality of the water is satisfactory nevertheless it will be an achievement when I am able to report 100% houses supplied with Council main water.

Protection of food in shops due to the application of the Food Hygiene Regulations has improved. Many alterations have been made to existing premises, and it is pleasing to see exposed food effectively protected.

The reduction of Tubercle Bacilli in milk, and the highly satisfactory standards of ice cream, maintained throughout the year and the low number of notified cases of Infectious Disease, are all points indicating the social and scientific advance which has been made not only in the current year but in the many years past in which the good efforts of those who have left the service are slowly and surely beginning to show their effect.

It is noticeable, in the past few years, how the pattern of the Local Health and Environmental Service is beginning to change.

No longer do we have serious outbreaks of virulent disease. The Pulmonary Tuberculosis notifications are reducing each year. The housing and nuisance complaints from the public are getting fewer. Why? Because the improvements effected in the environmental conditions are paying big dividends.

Two aspects of the service which are very much before the public at the moment are Clean Air and Clean Food. We are on the threshold of a new era in the campaign for cleaner air and cleaner food. Now that we have been given the tools we hope to be able to get on with the job.

In conclusion, may I thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and the Public Health Committee for their courtesy and encouragement. To the staff of the Health Department, Mr. J. R. Williams, Mr. F. Burgin, and Mrs. A. Barrow, for their loyalty, co-operation and unfailing help at all times during the year.

I remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. N. CORBISHLEY.

1. Visits and Inspections made

Factories (specific) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Rodent Control ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Atmospheric Pollution ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Refuse Collection Service ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
Shops (specific) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Movable Dwellings ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	250

2. Housing

Houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	356
Filthy and verminous premises	33

3. Infectious Diseases

Inquiries into cases of Infectious Disease	67
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4. Meat and Food Inspections

Slaughterhouses	540
Food Preparing Premises	35
Ice Cream	... ..	10
Milk (Bacteriological)	... ..	41
Miscellaneous Food Visits	... ..	19

A total of 1,898 premises were visited and 2,645 visits made.

Work of converting insanitary closets proceeded slowly during the year. Five Pail and 10 Waste Water Closets were converted. The position at the year end was:—

Water Closets	... ..	5,333	Waste Water Closets	...	107
Pail Closets	... ..	89	Privy Closets	... ..	2

There is a reluctance on the part of Contractors to tender for closet conversions. Whether it is that the work is so fetid or whether it is not sufficiently lucrative I do not know, but only two tenders were received after advertising and it took some six months for the work to be commenced.

There are approximately 200 pail and waste water closets yet to convert to the fresh water type. Gradually these are being dealt with. There are, however, a number of pails at farms and other dwellings in the outlying districts where it is impracticable to connect to the sewer.

Notices Served and Defects Remedied**Notices:**

Informal	... ..	169
Formal	... ..	1
Informal complied with	... ..	122
Formal complied with	... ..	1
Noices served on dwellings	... ..	156
Notices served on premises other than dwellings	... ..	13

Summary of Defects:

Gutters	... ..	3
Roofs and rainwater pipes	... ..	9
Sinks and waste pipes	... ..	1
Fireplaces repaired	... ..	2
Floors repaired	... ..	1
Elimination of dry rot	... ..	1
Windows and reveals	... ..	2
Plasterwork	... ..	1
W.C.s	... ..	1
Redecoration	... ..	1
Drains repaired or relaid	... ..	145
Dampness	... ..	5
Dustbins	... ..	4
Ashpits abolished, dustbins provided	... ..	2
Yard paving	... ..	1
Vent shaft renewed	... ..	1
Accumulation of refuse removed	3
Miscellaneous	5

Total defects remedied	188
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Housing

The housing position in this district gives much cause for satisfaction, most of the unfit dwellings have been dealt with during the past 3 years, and the Council's house building programme is nearing its end. The condition of the majority of existing houses is steadily improving, and this is reflected in the decreasing number of complaints received from occupiers about the state of their houses. More houses are becoming owner occupied and more new houses are being built, leaving in many cases existing properties empty. There were some 60 existing unoccupied dwellings at the end of the year, this is no doubt due to the satisfactory housing position and also to the fact that owners may be asking a far higher price than what the property is worth. I feel sure that in many cases the owners of these properties would do well to consider re-letting, which from an economic point of view would be a better proposition than a sale thereof, and would, of course, help the housing position still further. These premises are de-controlled under the Rent Act, 1957, which would allow the owner to fix his own rent.

Rent Act, 1957

It is interesting to note the change which is taking place due to the Rent Act. My experience in this matter has been one of satisfaction to see the ease in which this Act has been put into operation. Tenants have had their rent increased by owners, they have obviously replied by asking for certain defects to be remedied, in most cases the owners have readily agreed, and the work is now being proceeded with. At the end of the year some 37 applications had been received for Certificates of Disrepair, 15 have been issued. No doubt during 1958 many more applications will be dealt with. In the cases where the owner has refused to carry out repairs as listed on Form "G" and is satisfied to receive $1\frac{1}{2}$ times per annum the gross value of the house as his rent, then we have served on the owner a notice for urgent repairs which has satisfied the tenant and yet put the owner to less expense than what he would have had if he had have complied with Form "G."

Moveable Dwellings

An increase in the number of applications were received from owners of caravans who wished to reside temporarily in the district; most of these homes on wheels are owned by the employees of a large road construction firm now engaged on the new Preston By-pass. Due to co-operation from the agent all intended dwellers made application to this Department prior to siting their van in the district, we were thus able to effect proper control of these by arranging for the removal of their waste material and ensuring that there was no likelihood of a danger to health to either occupants or other people in the district. It is surprising the large number of people who prefer to live in this type of accommodation, and whilst the standard of these mobile vehicles is very high nevertheless strict control must be kept on the disposal of their waste products. The policy of the Council has been to allow these vans to be occupied for periods of up to 12 months and thereby a renewal of their licence for a further period, if their stay has proved satisfactory. There were 5 applications which were all approved by the Council except one, for a period of 12 months, and there are now in the district 7 licensed caravans.

Drainage

As in previous years, the Department maintained its service to owners and occupiers of property for clearing choked drains when requested. Some 372 visits were made for this purpose, which included the clearing of 145 drains. New drainage work also received attention, and some 20 new branch drains were inspected and colour tested during the year. An increased number of existing drainage installations to premises were smoke tested with a view to ascertaining any defects existing.

It is anticipated that during next year drainage work on new buildings will be smoke tested in order to ensure that the drains are satisfactory before being covered over.

Rodent Control

This service has continued during the year, and both dwellinghouses and business premises were teated on complaint and in the course of inspection. Dwellinghouses received a free service, of which 50% of the cost is recovered from the Ministry, business premises are treated at the request of the owner or occupier in which case a full charge is made. There was a slight increase in the number of complaints over 1956, but no serious infestation was found at any premises. During the Spring many complaints were received of small infestations by field mice, these were dealt with by applying Warfarin. Some 89 dwellinghouses have been treated and some 20 business premises, a total of 1,300 visits were made by the Operators and, in addition, public health inspections numbered 70.

Clean Air

There has been a diminution of smoke effluent from the industrial chimneys but there is as yet no reduction in the amount of domestic smoke. Many industrialists are realising the need for improving the efficiency of their boiler plants and for making the best use of the fuel they use. In many cases it is possible to increase efficiency by cutting down the waste in fuel and so reducing the amount consumed per week. In one case this has resulted in a saving of £100 per week and a reduction of smoke effluent from the chimney. Constant pressure is being maintained on all the industrialists to improve existing boiler plant; during the year one firm changed from hand firing to a chain grate stoker with the result that the amount of smoke being emitted from their chimney has been almost negligible, in 3 other cases a change of plant is contemplated.

It is proposed to ask the Council to introduce smoke control areas at suitable places; they have agreed in principle to this and passed a resolution to this effect.

Measurement of Pollution

During the second half of the year a Sulphur Dioxide and Volumetric Smoke Meter was set up in the Council Offices and daily records are being kept (indicating the amount of sulphur content and visible deposit). It is hoped to establish a deposit gauge at the School Clinic, Brindle Road, early in 1958. By this means it will be possible to obtain further statistical data of pollution in the area.

Pollution from Road Vehicles

The Department has been conscious of the great amount of pollution occurring from diesel fumes emitted by the large number of vehicles which pass through the district on the main A6 road. Considerable pollution has occurred and is occurring as a result of lack of maintenance and carelessness of the drivers of the diesel engines.

In order to try and reduce some of this pollution (and in most cases the management of the firms concerned are ignorant of its continuance), observations were made during the course of the year and the registration number and name of any offending vehicle was taken. A letter was sent to the firm concerned, pointing out the emission of smoke and asking for their co-operation to take steps to remedy this. In all 22 cases the proprietors indicated their desire to take necessary action to prevent the emission of black smoke.

MEAT AND FOOD

The number of animals inspected during the year at the two private slaughterhouses increased by some 20%; a detailed table is set out below showing the various animals dealt with and the percentages, etc., of those affected with disease.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

			Excluding Cows		Cows		Calves		Sheep & Lambs		Pigs
Number killed	...	...	6,361	...	3,584	...	7	...	4,404	...	2
Number inspected	...	...	6,361	...	3,584	...	7	...	4,404	...	2
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>											
Whole carcases condemned ..			9	...	36	...	1	...	6	...	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..			1,537	...	2,163	...	—	...	272	...	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	...		24.4	...	63.5	...	14.3	...	6.1	...	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>											
Whole carcases condemned ..			22	...	49	...	—	...	—	...	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..			456	...	1,030	...	—	...	—	...	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	...	7.1	...	17.4	...	—	...	—	...	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>											
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..			23	...	3	...	—	...	—	...	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	...		23	...	3	...	—	...	—	...	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	...	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—

By comparison to last year's figures it may be observed :—

1. The number of clean cattle slaughtered (heifers and bullocks) has almost doubled from 3,205 to 6,361.
2. Cows, on the other hand have continued to decline from 5,127 to 3,584.
3. Overall, the number of bovines slaughtered has increased by 1,613.
4. Calves slaughtered have decreased almost to nil, 39 to 7.
5. The slaughter of sheep and lambs has varied little, a slight increase is recorded, 4,164 to 4,404.
6. Pigs slaughtered show a remarkable decline from 797 to 2.

In bovines an increase of disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercus Bovis is recorded, in the main this is due to a continued high incidence of Distomatosis (Liver Fluke).

Tuberculosis in bovines has steadily decreased since de-control, it has now been reduced by 50%, with cows the decline has been steady, in clean cattle, whilst the overall decline has continued, there is a slight increase on the 1956 figure. The decline in the incidence of Tuberculosis is probably due to the extension of the attested herd and designated milk schemes. The incidence of Cysticercus Bovis varies little, but it is greater in clean cattle, over the year the infection was found on average in one out of every 200 carcases. With such a low rate of infection and the small size of the cyst, constant diligence is required to find it at all.

Slaughterhouses

The two private slaughterhouses were re-licensed again for a further period of 12 months, the larger of the two with a throughput now approaching 20,000 animals per year have now realised the need for expanding their premises, and as a result submitted a plan for consideration by the Council to build an entirely new private abattoir at a cost of something like £80,000. This application for planning consent was rejected by the Council but on appeal the Ministry allowed it and the proposal to build the abattoir was approved. It is proposed to establish a blood drying, bone crushing and digesting plant alongside the slaughterhall, but entirely separate therefrom, for the purpose of dealing with the by-products from the slaughterhouse. Whilst this may be an advantage from the control of condemned meat, and thus ensuring its safe disposal, it will nevertheless present a problem by the setting up of this offensive trade.

Milk

During 1957, 98 samples of milk were submitted to the Pathologist, at Preston Royal Infirmary, 70 raw milks and 28 heat treated. Of the 70 raw milks, 43 were Tuberculin Tested and 22 undesignated. 19 raw samples gave unsatisfactory results, 9 of these were produced in the district.

The 28 heat treated milks were all found to be satisfactory. 24 of the pasteurised samples were obtained at the Milk Marketing Board.

Raw Milks

Samples taken from Producers in the District.									Samples taken from Producers outside the District.							
Year	No. taken		Satisfactory			T.B.			No. taken		Satisfactory			T.B.		
			No.	%		present	No.	%			present					
1948	95	...	65	...	68.5	...	5	...	88	...	40	...	45.4	...	4
1949	100	...	85	...	85.0	...	1	...	53	...	26	...	49.0	...	3
1950	70	...	53	...	75.8	...	1	...	69	...	29	...	39.3	...	3
1951	69	...	53	...	67.0	...	3	...	76	...	31	...	40.7	...	3
1952	64	...	52	...	81.25	...	3	...	46	...	29	...	63.0	...	1
1953	64	...	48	...	75.0	...	0	...	43	...	25	...	58.0	...	1
1954	24	...	23	...	95.8	...	0	...	30	...	25	...	83.3	...	1
1955	44	...	42	...	95.5	...	0	...	41	...	21	...	51.2	...	0
1956	40	...	31	...	77.0	...	0	...	42	...	30	...	71.5	...	0
1957	37	...	28	...	75.0	...	0	...	33	...	23	...	70.0	...	3

Pasteurised Milks

Year		Number Taken	Number Efficiently Heat Treated			%
1948	.....	14	...	14	...	100
1949	.....	15	...	15	...	100
1950	.....	21	...	21	...	100
1951	.....	27	...	27	...	100
1952	.....	36	...	34	...	94.5
1953	.....	23	...	21	...	91.3
1954	.....	17	...	17	...	100
1955	.....	12	...	12	...	100
1956	.....	38	...	35	...	92.4
1957	.....	28	...	28	...	100

Tuberculosis in Milk

No positive samples of milk from producers and retailers serving the district have been found during the year. Of the samples taken from churns at the Milk Marketing Board premises from producers of raw milk sending their bulk supplies into the district 3 were found to be positive for Tubercle Bacilli. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food were immediately notified in order that the affected cows could be traced and dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938.

It is true to say that with the introduction of specified areas where all milk sold is heat treated or Tuberculin Tested, that it is virtually impossible for any infected milk to reach the consumer. The reduction in the number of animals affected with this disease is in no small measure due to the efforts of the Ministry's Veterinary Division, who are gradually building up tubercle free herds throughout the country.

Ice Cream

There are only two premises in the district making and retailing their own ice cream, all the other 38 retailers obtain their supplies from such well-known firms as Walls and Lyons, etc. The bacteriological standard is high, and of the six samples obtained all were found to be satisfactory.

Other Foods

The following shows the amount of food requiring rejection, being unfit for human consumption.

	lbs.	ozs.
Lard	8	8
Tinned Foods, including Chicken, Pork, Ox Tongue, Corned Beef	85	12
Sausages	274	
Boiled Ham	66	
Roast Pork	18	
Roast Beef	8	8
Pork Pies	6	
Irish Salami	7	
Bacon	15	
Black Puddings	4	
Tinned Milk 500 cases	492	12

Food Hygiene

The general survey of the shops and food preparation premises in the district proceeded very slowly during the year. Much improvement has been effected by the occupiers of shops, and quite a number of owners have carried out structural alterations in order to bring their premises up to a far higher standard than that required under the Food & Drugs Act or the Regulations. The proprietors and the public are becoming more conscious about food protection, and traders realise that in order to sell their goods they must ensure that they are reasonably protected against contamination whilst on sale. There is an increase in pre-packed goods, and whilst progress is slow in this field I feel that the time is not too far distant when we shall see most of our perishable goods efficiently protected against any harmful contamination.

Infectious Disease

The number of cases of Infectious Disease were nearly half those of last year. Each case of Scarlet Fever was visited and terminal disinfection carried out on request. The diminishing virulence of Scarlet Fever cases has allowed some relaxation in the control of contacts, and the County Medical Officer of Health now advises that it is not necessary to exclude children from school who are in direct contact with a case of such Infectious Disease. Some 67 visits were made in connection with the cases reported.

Disinfection

Disinfection of houses after a case of Scarlet Fever now no longer is a necessity. It has been considered that terminal disinfection is a waste of time, and there is very little likelihood of infection being passed from articles of clothing, etc., to another person.

The public still regard disinfection as a necessary means of preventing any spread of infection in their family and request this disinfection after a case has occurred in their home. The request is acceded to in order to give them the sense of personal security.

The summary shows the number of premises and articles dealt with:—

Beds fumigated	33	Parcels of Bedding fumigated	281		
Books fumigated	18	Premises fumigated	41

Verminous Premises

With the removal of a large number of unfit houses the number of premises affected with vermin are very few indeed; there has been only one case of bug infestation and 5 premises which were treated for cockroaches, ants and silver fish, etc., these were more of a nuisance value than any probable danger to health. Methods of control include Gammexane powder and D.D.T. liquid.

During the year an electrical aerosol dispenser was purchased for dealing with large areas or buildings where infestation was present; it was used with good effect in two cases and is proving a most efficient tool.

Cockroach infestations invariably occur around fireplaces where conditions for breeding are ideal. The large number of dwellings with solid floors tend to aggravate the problem (the filling material is generally composed of ashes or clinker, which I suspect are infected before laying); such floors readily lend themselves to good breeding conditions.

It was necessary on one occasion to take up the whole of a floor to treat successfully for a cockroach infestation.

Public Cleansing

House and Trade Refuse Collection and Disposal

The house and trade refuse collection service has been reasonably well maintained during the year. There have been difficulties in coping with a large number of houses built during the year. The modern development of estates have little regard for the services which entail the removing of house refuse, the delivery of coal, etc., and which in our case adds to the cost of the collection. It is easy to visualise the distance one operator walks in collecting the bin from one house, in most cases some 120 yards has to be walked to collect and empty one dustbin. This is a time consuming operation, and in order to effect an efficient service some organisation is necessary to prevent a "fall down" in the collections.

The employment position has been fairly satisfactory during the year as we have now no difficulty in obtaining labour for this type of work, but I am very perturbed at the higher rate of sickness amongst the employees. This has increased over last year and whilst I am not doubting the genuineness of the illness I do think that there is a tendency on the part of the employee to extend the period of sickness to its maximum in order that full benefits may be derived. Many efforts have been tried to improve this position but so far an answer has not been found.

Rising costs and wages have obviously increased the cost of the service, although there has been an increase in the amount of salvage disposed of which partly compensates for this increase.

The tip extension is now in full operation, and we are beginning to incorporate the whole of the valley; soil stripping has preceded the tipping of refuse, and within the next two years a portion of the new tip will be finished ready for handing back to the owner.

Salvage

The amount of paper salvaged during the year was some 55.75 tons more than 1956. The total received for salvage is £200 more than last year as the figures show in the table on page 26.

Gross Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	...	£13,175
Gross Income	...	...	...	...	...	...	£3,069
Net Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	...	£10,106
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,130
Houses Scavenged	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,416
Wages of Drivers at December, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	£9 4 6 per week
Wages of Collectors at December, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	£8 16 10 per week

Comparative Cost of House Refuse Collection for the Years 1924, 1944 and 1954

Year		1924	1944	1954
No. of Houses Scavenged	... ..	2,828	4,126	4,885
Gross Cost of Service	... ..	£2,205	£4,402	£10,373
Salvage and other credits	... ..	Nil	£1,586	£2,256
Nett cost of Service	... ..	£2,205	£2,815	£8,116

Wages of house refuse collectors and motor drivers

			1924		1944		1954
Collectors weekly	... ..	£2	0s. 0d.	£3	6s. 9d.	£7	3s. 0d.
Drivers weekly	... ..	£2	16s. 0d.	£4	0s. 0d.	£7	13s. 0d.

Collections and Sales of Salvage

The following table shows the tonnage and materials sold and the amounts received for salvage

			Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.		£	s.	d.
Paper	... ..	267	14	1	—	...	2,533	14	9	
Textiles	... ..	10	14	1	7	...	211	10	9	
Non-Ferrous Metals	...	1	13	3	26	...	155	6	10	
Cast Iron	... ..	7	9	3	—	...	53	0	3	
Light Iron	... ..	5	2	1	—	...	30	3	9	
Use of Tip	... ..					...	15	5	0	
Totals		292	14	2	5	...	£2,999	1	4	

The Council commenced the collection of salvage in May, 1940. The following table shows the tonnage sold and the amounts received each year by the sales of salvaged materials:—

<i>Year</i>				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>		<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1940	...	...	...	129	3	3	18	...	426	18	4
1941	...	...	...	194	7	3	0	...	828	10	8
1942	...	...	...	280	5	1	5	...	1,148	5	1
1943	...	...	...	376	4	1	16	...	1,424	18	0
1944	...	...	...	463	6	2	0	...	1,576	17	8
1945	...	...	...	491	9	1	11	...	1,607	19	9
1946	...	...	...	335	1	2	24	...	1,360	0	7
1947	...	...	...	398	19	1	15	...	1,685	19	1
1948	...	...	...	510	0	2	0	...	2,211	15	7
1949	...	...	...	490	18	3	24	...	2,343	13	8
1950	...	...	...	412	7	0	7	...	2,108	15	7
1951	...	...	...	385	12	3	26	...	3,787	4	9
1952	...	...	...	388	18	1	1	...	2,521	13	2
1953	...	...	...	382	9	0	19	...	2,331	13	1
1954	...	...	...	282	6	3	21	...	2,256	16	3
1955	...	...	...	280	16	3	16	...	2,693	11	9
1956	...	...	...	240	9	1	21	...	2,790	19	7
1957	...	...	...	292	14	2	5	...	2,999	1	4

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

This brief report covers the period 1st January, 1957, to 31st December, 1957.

1. Highways

The increased allotment for Class I and II roads enabled preparatory work to be done for continuing the re-surfacing programme on A.675, and a further length of B.5257 to be resurfaced.

Further work on improving Hennel Lane (Class III road) was held up as the Ministry of Transport would not allot funds to carry out the next section.

Increased funds for unclassified roads are promised for next year to enable much needed improvement work to be carried out. Much work originally planned to be carried out during the period had to be postponed to next year because of motorway work interfering with our work.

Authorised expenditure over the last 5 years.						
Classification		1957	1956	1955	1954	1953
Class I (3.07 miles)	... ..	£5,109 (£1,665/mile)	£3,678 (£1,195/mile)	£7,469 (£2,435/mile)	£3,228	£1,145
Class II (2.22 miles)	... ..	£5,612 (£2,530/mile)	£3,742 (£1,685/mile)	£3,191 (£1,440/mile)	£3,231	£1,150
Class III (2.39 miles)	... ..	£2,279 (£952/mile)	£4,580 (£1,915/mile)	£1,258 (£527/mile)	£1,041*	£4,445
Unclassified (16.51 miles)	...	£5,383 (£326/mile)	£8,642 (£580/mile)	£10,135** (£685/mile)	£6,315	£8,612
Totals	...	£18,383	£20,642	£22,053	£13,815	£15,362

* Plus £3,900 for a Major Improvement Scheme at Hennel Lane.

** Plus £2,300 loan Scheme for Gregson Lane improvement at Housing Estate.

The Mechanical Street Sweeper authorised last year was delivered in June, and the Council authorised the purchase of a Gulley Emptying Machine. With these vehicles in use, the need for the many "dumps" around the district will be removed.

The construction of Preston By-pass motorway continued, and work was begun on the diversions of Cottage Lane and Brindle Road. The contractors' traffic caused considerable damage to district roads on the approaches to the motorway site. The cost of repairs is expected to be recoverable from the Ministry of Transport.

2. Street Lighting

The lighting of A.675 and B.5257 to group "A" standards (4.44 miles total) was completed.

All private streets and private builders' estate roads were lighted to group "B" standards as the roadmaking proceeded. In addition, wherever possible, group "B" lighting was provided on road improvements carried out by the Council on unclassified roads.

3. Private Streets

Schemes were prepared and approved and notices served under the Private Street Works Act, 1892, for 8 streets:—Bridge Road, The Crescent, Victoria Street, Sephton Street, Hoghton Street, Southlands Avenue, Havelock Terrace, and Winery Lane.

The making up of 7 streets was completed:—Dean Street, Lords Avenue, Green Drive, Clayton Street, Passage off St. Mary's Road, and Aspden Street (2 lengths).

Work was in progress at the end of the year in making up 5 streets:—Victoria Street, Sephton Street, Hoghton Street, Bridge Road, and The Crescent.

There are, at the time of writing (June, 1958,), 43 unmade private streets (excluding back passages) within the Urban District: —

All Saints Ward	...	...	4	
Central Ward	...	...	8	Schemes being prepared for 2 streets.
South Ward	...	...	14	
St. Leonard's Ward	...	...	14	Schemes in preparation for 3 streets.
West Ward	...	...	3	

In addition, all streets completed by private estate developers were adopted under the terms of agreements made under S.146 of Public Health Act, 1875:—

Laburnam Avenue (part)	Balmoral Road (part)
Marlborough Drive (part)	Devon Close
Kent Avenue	Alexandra Road
Rutland Avenue (part)	Cinnamon Hill Drive South (part)
Chatsworth Road	Osborne Road (part)

4. Sewerage and Surface Water Drainage.

Work on the main sewerage scheme was completed.

The Lostock Hall pumping station was completed and brought into service, and consequently the septic tank and filter receiving the flow from the Lostock View area was abandoned.

The scheme prepared to relieve Brown Lane surface water sewers by connecting into the new drainage of the motorway was completed. Unfortunately, the outlet for the motorway drainage was not completed by the Contractors, and consequently the relief sewer was not functioning to its full capacity.

An open ditch at Withy Trees Housing Estate was finally culverted following loan sanction by the Ministry.

5. Sewage Disposal

The scheme for reconstructing the sewage disposal works is apparently still "pending" in some file at the Ministry. The scheme was submitted in 1955 and the Ministry does not appear to have taken any action whatsoever on it.

The effluent from the Gas Works, which the Council refused to accept into the sewers, was connected to the Padiham to Ribble Estuary pipe line and is now disposed of to sea via a tidal tank.

6. Flooding

There was no flooding from either the Ribble or the Darwen during the year.

Minor flooding occurred on the night of 31st December, 1957, during and following a period of 24 hours in which 2in. of rain fell. All the flooding was caused by surcharging of sewers. Such remedial measures as were possible were taken and investigations are continuing with a view to seeking a permanent solution to the problems.

7. Council Housing

At the beginning of the period 44 houses and flats were under construction compared with 58 at the beginning of the previous year.

Contracts had been accepted for 86 dwellings, of which the above 44 formed part.

During the period 46 new houses were completed and occupied, and at the end of the year 46 dwellings were under construction.

A scheme was prepared for a group of 16 aged persons' bungalows, together with communal rooms, with a "warden's" flat above. Negotiations were begun for the site and a tender invited from Unity Structures, Ltd.

4 of the Council's older houses at Manybrooks were provided with bathrooms.

An old-type house (5, Ellen Street) was bought by the Council and provided with a bathroom and modernised with the aid of an improvement grant.

A similar scheme for 2, Montgomery Street was approved by the Council.

During the year 17 applications for improvement grants to private houses were received and approved.

8. Playing Fields

Work was completed at St. Cuthbert's Road Playing Field and a football pitch is now available on this formerly almost derelict site.

Work was substantially completed on levelling and sowing and the erection of toilets at the Holme Playing Field.

9. Staff

The period under review was the first for several years in which staff movements did not cause serious difficulties. The only change was due to an assistant who began work in the Offices in January and left in June.

The vacancy was filled in August.

10. Plans and Planning

During the year 217 applications relating to 616 permanent buildings and 117 temporary buildings were dealt with under the Council's Byelaws, and 160 applications were dealt with under Planning legislation.

11. Transport and Plant

The street sweeping machine was delivered in June.

The street lighting tower was removed from the very old Dodge chassis (which was scrapped) and mounted on the Karrier Bantam chassis. No replacement was bought for the Bantam waggon, it being considered that a useful economy in transport could be made by hiring additional transport as required to meet any extraordinary demand.

Mileage and petrol consumption of the Department's vehicles was:—

Vehicle				Date registered	Miles	Petrol gallons	m.p.g.	Remarks
Karrier Bantam	...	...	...	1949	5,615	594	9.5	7 months only. Converted to Tower Waggon.
Ford Thames	...	...	...	1955	12,941	1,090	11.9	
Fordson 5 cwt. van	...	...	...	1955	11,957	407	29.4	
Ford Thames	1956	12,965	1,182	11.0	
Bedford Sweeper	1957	2,690	699	3.9	7 months only.
				Totals	46,168	3,972		

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WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT ON WATER SUPPLY

1. Sources of Water

Thirlmere and Haweswater (Manchester Corporation).

Rivers Ribble and Hodder and Longridge Fell gathering grounds (Preston Corporation).

2. Quality of Water

Permanent hardness	<i>Preston Water</i>	<i>Manchester Water</i>
Temporary hardness	42 parts/million	5 to 10 parts/million
Total hardness	Nil	11 to 15 parts/million
pH value	42 parts/million	18 parts/million
	7.1	7.5

Thirlmere water has lime added at the strainer well and is chlorinated at Kendal. Preston water is chlorinated at Grimsargh service reservoir.

3. Area of Supply

Supplies are given to certain consumers in Hoghton and Brindle (as a condition of the wayleave for No. 1 intake main) and a bulk supply is provided to part of Cuerden Parish.

All premises in the Urban District (except 3 farms with a private supply) are provided with mains water.

The estimated population supplied is 16,500.

4. Quantity Supplied

Manchester Corporation:—				1957		1956
				gallons		gallons
No. 1 Meter House	...	...	...	106,309,000	...	110,030,000
No. 2 Meter House	...	...	...	189,964,000	...	179,033,000
Preston Corporation	...	...	...	50,947,000	...	31,461,000
				<hr/>		<hr/>
Total Supply	...	...	...	347,220,000	...	320,524,000
Less bulk supply to Cuerden	...	...	...	3,509,000	...	2,789,000
				<hr/>		<hr/>
Total Consumption in U.D. and parts of						
Hoghton and Brindle	...	...	...	343,711,000	...	317,735,000
				<hr/>		<hr/>

Note. Water retained in the two service reservoirs has been disregarded in the above calculation as the total storage with both reservoirs full is 980,000 gallons or about 25 hours consumption.

5. Consumption

		1957	per head	1956	per head
			day		day
			gallons		gallons
Total Consumption	...	343,711,000	57.07	317,735,000	54.7
Metered Consumption	...	147,550,000	24.5	141,697,000	24.4
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
"Domestic" Consumption	...	196,161,000	32.57	176,038,000	30.3
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Note. Domestic Consumption includes all un-metered uses of water, including fire fighting, building water, main flushing, sewer flushing and losses due to bursts.

Total water consumption continues to increase. There was no noticeable slackening in the rate of building new houses for sale, and from the projects submitted for planning and byelaw approval, the rate of building is unlikely to reduce for some years to come. The use of water for building purposes and the increased consumption in new houses is therefore expected to continue, showing further increases in total water consumption.

6. Distribution

1. WATERMAIN NETWORK.

The network was extended by the laying of the following mains:—

240 yds. 6" main in Allerton Road;
167 yds. 3" main in Laburnam Avenue;
233 yds. 3" main in St. Mary's Avenue;
200 yds. 3" main in St. Mary's Close.

The following replacement mains were laid:—

528 yds. 4" main in Gregson Lane;
883 yds. 4" main in Cuerdale Lane.

In connection with the Preston Bye-pass motorway, 300 yds. of 8" diversion main were laid in Church Road roundabout.

2. WATER METERS.

The number of water meters in the district is approx. 445. Many meters which were defective were replaced.

3. FIRE HYDRANTS.

All proposals for main extensions or replacements are submitted to the County Fire Department who indicate the positions in which hydrants are to be fixed. The hydrants are paid for by the County Council.

The Fire Service regularly inspect all hydrants and order and pay for any repair work found necessary.

4. WASTE PREVENTION.

Two Inspectors are now employed by the Council on waste detection and prevention. Renewal of defective washers is done by the Council without charge to the consumer.

The following work was carried out:—

1957	1956	
3,293	1,892	Visits to premises by Inspectors.
1,320	881	Taps re-washed.
374	260	Cistern valves re-washed.
311	477	Burst services discovered.
18	20	Fractured mains repaired.

The period under review was the first full year in which a second Inspector was employed. This Inspector was engaged on routine inspections of all premises in the Urban District. The increased number of visits to premises and the increased numbers of washers replaced give an indication of his work and the value of routine inspections.

A weekend night check for leakage was made on the old 8" main from Houghton No. 1 intake to Brindle Reservoir, using the flow recorder recently acquired. The main was found to be sound and free from leaks.

A "pressure monitor," which will provide a 24-hour pressure check on any hydrant, was purchased, and complaints of poor pressures in certain parts of the district were investigated.

5. CROSS FEEDS.

The work of improving supply within the existing main network was continued, and cross feed connections were made at Knot Lane (connected to 8" "Thirlmere" main), Alma Row and Wilkinson Street.

The supply on Cinnamon Hill Estate was very much improved by the laying of a 6" main in Allerton Road. The "dead end" mains in Chorley Road and Windsor Road were connected to this new main.

Following last year's cleaning, inspection and sterilizing of the two covered service reservoirs, no work was necessary at either of the reservoirs during the year.

8. Water Treatment

The schemes prepared last year for the installation of automatic chlorinators on the two intakes from Manchester Corporation's Thirlmere aqueducts received loan sanction. The extension required to house the equipment at No. 1 Meter House, and the internal alterations at No. 2 Meter House were completed.

The equipment was not brought into use as the electricity supply required at both stations to operate the equipment had not been provided by the North Western Electricity Board.

9. Future Supplies

A "reservation notice" was served on Manchester Corporation, based on the most intelligent forecast possible of future requirements.

10. Amalgamation

Discussions were continued with neighbouring Authorities arising from the Minister's circular on amalgamation of undertakings.

The final suggestion was the formation of a Joint Water Board, to include Preston County Borough, Fulwood U.D., Leyland U.D., Walton-le-Dale U.D., Preston R.D., and parts of West Lancashire R.D. (Longridge U.D. is already within Preston Borough's supply area).

Fulwood U.D.C. did not seem to welcome this suggested Joint Board, and Walton-le-Dale were apprehensive that the supply of "cheap water" (375,000 gallons/day at 5½d./1,000 gallons) from Manchester Corporation might not be continued to a new supply authority.

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